

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 08333 061029Z

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

US MISSION GENEVA 449

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FROM REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ILO, AORG

SUBJECT: ILO - BLANCHARD CANDIDACY FOR ILO DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP

REF: STATE 236840

1. BLANCHARD HAS PERFORMED HIS ROLE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOURTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE WITH QUIET EFFICIENCY. WITH HELP OF ILO LEGAL ADVISER WOLF, HE GOT CONFERENCE UNDERWAY AFTER SLOW START AND MANAGED TO OVERCOME MINOR PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS OBJECTION TO REGISTRATION OF FRENCH AS REGULAR DELEGATES (FRENCH AGREED TO SIT WITH OBSERVERS). SUBSEQUENTLY, HE MAINTAINED RELAXED POSTURE IN AND AROUND CONFERENCE AND READY AVAILABILITY FOR ANY CONFEREES SEEKING HIS ASSISTANCE OR ADVISE.

2. BLANCHARD SPOKE BEFORE OAU/OATUU SPECIAL MEETING ON APARTHEID (DELIVERING SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS ORIGINALLY PREPARED FOR JENKS), AND HE ADDRESSED NAIROBI PRESS CLUB ON PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS OF ILO. HE ALSO STAGE-MANAGED AND OPENED SPECIAL CONFERENCE SESSION

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 08333 061029Z

DEC. 5 ON ILO WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM STUDY OF KENYA.

SESSION WAS BEST OF CONFERENCE, LARGELY BECAUSE OF BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE OF KENYAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING, MWAI KIBAKI.

3. TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION OF PERSONAL CONFLICT, BLANCHARD PROVIDED TEVORDJRE WITH PROMINENT POSITION AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONFERENCE AND GAVE HIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS, ONE OF TWO FORMAL COMMITTEES.

4. THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE BLANCHARD REFRAINED FROM ANY ACTIVE POLITIKING FOR HIS CANDIDACY FOR POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ILO. HE DID HAVE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL OBSERVERS, INCLUDING REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE CALDWELL, PAT O'FARRELL OF AALC AND GEORGE FOGGON OF UK. IN THESE HE TALKED MOSTLY ABOUT ILO PROGRAMS IN GENERAL AND NEED TO MAKE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS MORE EFFICIENT. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT CONFERENCE WAS PROGRESSING WELL BUT WAS NOT AS PRODUCTIVE AS HE WISHED OWING TO POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING TEVORDJRE'S CANDIDACY AND FOLLOWING ON OAU'S PRESSURE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA RATHER THAN ON CONFERENCE TOPICS.

5. IN CONTRAST TO BLANCHARD'S COOL, RELAXED ATTITUDE, TEVORDJRE HAS CONSTANTLY BEEN CAMPAIGNING AND SEEKING WAYS AND MEANS TO ACCOMMODATE HIMSELF TO VIEWS AND DESIRES OF DELEGATES RE ILO'S FUTURE. HE CIRCULATED MEMORANDUM ON WHAT HE WOULD DO IF ELECTED AND INVITED COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. HIS YOUTHFUL VIGOR AS HE MOVED ABOUT WAS IMPRESSIVE. OAU REPRESENTATIVES REPEATEDLY REMINDED DELEGATES OF UNANIMOUS RESOLUTIONS BY THEIR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND LABOR MINISTERS' CONFERENCES IN ADDIS ABABA LAST MAY IN SUPPORT OF TEVORDJRE'S CANDIDACY.

6. AFRICAN WORKERS' GROUP SESSION ON DEC. 1 PASSED RESOLUTION, ENGINEERED IN PART BY TEVORDJRE HIMSELF, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NAIROB 08333 061029Z

ENDORING TEVORDJRE AS SOLE AFRICAN CANDIDATE AND CALLING FOR WORLDWIDE SUPPORT. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS FELT SUCH RESOLUTION WAS UNNECESSARY AT THIS JUNCTURE AND TACTLESS IN VIEW BLANCHARD'S PRESENCE AND HIS CORRECT BEHAVIOR. UNDAUNTED, TEVORDJRE'S SUPPORTERS, DESPITE DISAPPROVAL BY GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS, PROCEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF RESOLUTION TO EVERY DELEGATE AND OBSERVER AT CONFERENCE. THIS ACTION HAS PROBABLY HURT

TEVORDJRE'S POSITION.

7. IN SUM, IMPRESSION OF BLANCHARD'S PERFORMANCE IS THAT OF  
COMPETENT, IF SOMEWHAT COLORLESS, BUREAUCRAT  
PURSUING HIS PROFESSIONAL JOB. HIS QUIET, RELAXED  
APPEARANCE OCCASIONED LITTLE COMMENT PRO OR CON. HIS  
MAIN INFLUENCE ON CONFERENCE WAS TO KEEP IT ON ITS  
TRACKS DESPITE DIVERSIONARY POLITICKING. TEVORDJRE  
ON OTHER HANE WAS MORE FLAMBOYANT AND ATTRACTED MORE  
ATTENTION. IT IS QUESTIONABLE, HOWEVER, HOW GOOD  
IMPRESSION HE MADE WHERE IT COUNTS, NAMELY WHERE THE  
VOTES ARE, AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING  
BODY.  
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